(c) whether it is also a fact that the faculty members of AIIMS have complained against delay in approval of research grants;

(d) if so, whether the issue was discussed in the Governing Body of AIIMS;

(e) if so, when and what was the outcome; and

(f) what steps are being taken to facilitate research grants in AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No Sir.

(b) Extramural research in AIIMS is managed under the guidance of the Research Committee of the Institute. As per procedures laid down, research proposals are forwarded to funding agencies by the faculty members/Scientists and upon receipt of financial sanctions from the funding agencies, approval of the competent authority at AIIMS is issued subject to clearances from the Ethics Committee, Animal Ethics Committee, Bio Safety Committee, Health Ministry Screening Committee, Radiation Safety Committee and the Clinical Trial Registry.

For intramural research, proposal are submitted to the Dean, AIIMS, which are screened and evaluated by three sub committees of Senior faculty members. Rs.50.00 lakh per annum is allocated for Intramural research.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) In order to facilitate research grants, AIIMS permits every faculty member/Scientist to prepare project proposals and apply for intramural and extramural grant. Besides to facilitate speedier approval, various committees meet at periodical intervals in a systematic fashion. Finally, AIIMS also has its internal fund of Rs.50.00 lakh per annum which is provided for small research projects submitted by junior faculty.

Construction of airport in Andal

†*77. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of an airport at Andal in West Bengal is under consideration;

(b) if so, the land required for the same and the land acquired so far for this purpose;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a coal reserve of 20 thousand lakh tonnes beneath this land;

(d) whether sufficient steps are being taken to safeguard this airport from fire incident in this coal reserve due to any natural calamity; and

(e) by when the construction work of this airport will be completed?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India had accorded 'In-principle' approval to M/s. Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Limited for setting up of a Domestic Greenfield Airport at Andal - Faridpur blocks of Barddhaman District in West Bengal. Land required for the proposed Greenfield Domestic Airport is approximately 650 acres, out of which 533.51 acres have already been acquired.

(c) As per the information available from Geological Survey of India, there is coal reserve in Andal, West Bengal, the quantity of which is not separately estimated.

(d) The airport operator has informed that coal will not be mined below the surface of the proposed Greenfield Airport. Furthermore, there is an additional buffer zone that will be bereft of any mining activities thereby acting as a fire retardant zone below the surface. Extensive fire fighting measure will form an integral part of the Airport's fire fighting system. These measures, coupled with the fact that the coal seams lie at very large depths below the surface will pose no threat to safe airport operations.

(e) The Airport is scheduled for completion by December, 2011.

Establishment of Aviation University at Hyderabad

*78. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of an Aviation University of international standards at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the action that has been taken so far on the said request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In the year 2005, Government of Andhra Pradesh had expressed its willingness to set up an aviation university at the Begumpet airport after its closure.

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh was advised to initiate the process of setting up the University in consultation with Ministry of Human Resource Development, with technical inputs regarding courses and curriculum provided by the Ministry of Civil Aviation as and when required. No further request has been received from the State Government In this regard.

Fixation of sale price of gas

†*79. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.